

Carroll Free Press.

VOL. II

CARROLLTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1836.

NO. 30.—WHOLE NO. 82

CHARM OF A RATTLE SNAKE.

An extract from "Yemassee," a Romance of South Carolina, by the author of Guy Rivers, &c.

"He does not come—he does not come," she murmured, as she stood contemplating the thick copse spreading before her, and forming the barrier which terminated the beautiful range of oaks which constituted the grove. How beautiful was the green and garniture of that little copse of wood. The leaves were thick, and the grass around lay folded over and over in bunches, with here and there a wild flower gleaming from its green and making of it a beautiful carpet of the richest and most various texture. A small tree rose from the centre of a clump around which a wild grape gadded luxuriantly; and with an incoherent sense of what she saw, she lingered before the little cluster, seeming to survey that which she had no thought for at the moment. Things grew indistinct to her wandering eye; the thought was tuned inward; and the musing spirit denying the governing sense to the external spirits and conductors, they failed duly to appreciate the forms that floated and glided before them. In this way, the leaf detached made no impression upon the sight that was bent upon it; she saw not the bird though it whirled, untroubled by a fear, in wanton circles around her head; and the blacksnake, with the rapidity of an arrow, darted over, the path without arousing a single terror in the form that otherwise would have shivered but at its appearance. And yet, though thus indistinct, were all things around her to the musing mind of the maiden, her eye was singularly impressed with one object, peering out at intervals from the little bush beneath it. She saw, or thought she saw, at moments through the bright green of the leaves a star like glimmer, a small, riv, subtle, sharp beautiful; an eye of the leaf itself darting the most searching looks into her own. Now the leaves shook and the vines waved elastically and in beautiful forms before her, but the star like eye was there, bright and gorgeous, and still glancing upon her own. How beautiful, how strange, did it appear to the maiden. She watched it still with a dawning sense, but with a spirit strangely attracted by its beauty—with a feeling to which awe and admiration were equally commingled, she could have bent forward to pluck the gemlike thing from the bosom of the leaf in which it seemed to grow, and from which it gleamed so brilliantly; but once, as she approached, she heard a shrill scream from the tree above her; such a scream as the mocking bird makes, when angry, it raised its dusky crest, and flaps its wings against its slender sides. Such a scream seemed like a warning, and though yet unawakened to full consciousness, it repelled her approach. More than once in her survey of this strange object she heard that shrill note, and still had it carried to her ear the same note of warning, and to her mind the same vague consciousness of an evil presence. But the star light eyes were yet upon her own; a small, bright eye, quick like that of a bird, now darting forward with all the clustering leaves a bout it, and shooting up towards her, as if wooing her to seize. At another moment riveted to the vine which lay around it, it would whirl round and round, dazlingly bright and beautiful, as a torch waving hurriedly by night in the hands of some playful boy; but in all this time the glance was never taken from her own; there it grew, fixed, a very principle of light; subtle, burning, piercing, fascinating light, such as gathers in vapour above the old grave, and binds us as we look—shooting darting, directly into her own, dazling her gaze, defeating its sense of discrimination, and confusing most strangely that of perception.

She felt dizzy, for as she looked a cloud of colours, bright, gay, various colours, floated around the single object that had so secured her attention and spell bound her feet. Her limbs felt momentarily more and more insecure; her blood grew cold, and she began to feel a gradual freeze of vein by vein, throughout her person. At that moment a rustling was heard in the branches of the tree beside her, and the bird, which had repeatedly uttered a single cry as it were of warning, above her, flew away from her station with a scream more piercing than ever. This movement had the effect, for which it seemed really intended, of bringing back to her a portion of the consciousness she seemed so totally to have been deprived of before. She strove to move from before the beautiful but terrible presence, but for a while strove in vain. The rich star like glance still riveted her own, and the subtle fascination still kept her bound. The mental energies, however with the moment of their greatest trial, now gathered suddenly to her aid, and with a desperate effort, but with a feeling, still of most annoying uncertainty and dread, she succeeded partially in the attempt, and leaped backward against a neighboring tree, feeble tottering and depending upon it for that support which her own limbs almost entirely denied her. With her movement, however, came the full development, of the powerful spell, and dreadful mystery before her. As her feet receded, though but for a single pace to the tree against which she now rested, the audible articulated ring, like that of a watch when wound up with the verge broken, announced the nature of that splendid yet dangerous presence, in the form of the monstrous Rattle

snake, now but a few feet from her, lying coiled at the bottom of a beautiful shrub, with which, to her dreaming eye, many of its own glorious hues had been associated.

She was conscious enough to discriminate and to perceive, but terror had denied her the strength necessary to fly from her dreadful enemy. There still the eye glared beautifully bright and piercing upon her own; and seemingly in a spirit of sport, he slowly unwound himself from his coil, then immediately, the next moment, again gathered himself into its muscular masses: the rattle still slightly ringing at intervals, and giving forth that paralyzing sound, which once heard, is remembered forever. The reptile all this while appeared to be conscious of, and to sport with, while seeking to excite her terrors. Now with its flat head, distended mouth, and curved neck, would dart forward its long form towards her, its fatal teeth unfoling on either side of its jaws, seeming to threaten her with instantaneous death, while its powerful eye shot forth glances of that fatal power of fascination, malignantly bright, which by paralyzing with a move the power of beasts, may readily account for the spell it possesses of binding the feet of the timid, and denying to fear even the privilege of flight. Then the next moment recovering quickly, it would resume its folds, and with arching neck which now glittered like a bar of brazen copper, and fixed eye, continue calmly as it were to contemplate the victim of its secret venom: the pendulous rattle still ringing the death note as if to prepare the conscious mind for the fate which is at hand. Its various folds were now complete—the coil forming a series of knots; the muscles now and then, rising rigidly into a hill, now corded down by the pressure of another of its folds into a valley. These suddenly unclamping in the general effort to strike its enemy, give it that degree of impetus which enable it to make its stroke as fatal at the full extent of its own length, as when suddenly invaded, its head is simply elevated and the poisonous blow is given.

The glance of Bess Matthews at this moment upon her enemy assured her that the sports of the deadly reptile were about to cease. She could not now mistake the expression of its eye. She strove to scream, but her voice died away in her throat. Her lips were sealed, she sought to fly, but her limbs were palsied; she had nothing left of life but its consciousness, and in despair of escape, forced from her by the accumulating agony, she sunk down upon the grass before her enemy; her eyes however, still open, and still looking upon those which he directed forever upon them. She saw him approach—now advance, now recede—now swelling in every part with something of anger, while his neck was arched beautifully like that of a wild horse under the curb; until, at length, tired as it were, of play, like the cat with its victim, she saw the neck grow larger and becoming completely brood, when about to strike, the huge jaws unclenching almost directly above her, the long tabulated fangs, charged with venom, protruding from the cavernous mouth—and she saw no more! Insensibility came to her aid, and she lay almost lifeless under the very folds of the monster. In that moment of the copse parted, and an arrow, piercing him through and through the neck, bore his head forward to the ground alongside of the maiden, while his spiral extremities, now unfolding in his own agony were actually to part, resting upon her person. The arrow came from the fugitive Oconestoga, who had fortunately reached the spot, in season, on his way to the Block-house. He rushed from the copse as the snake fell, and, with a stick, fearlessly approached him where he lay writhing upon the grass. Seeing him advance, the courageous reptile made an effort to regain his coil, while shaking the fearful rattle violently at every evolution he took for that purpose; but the arrow completely passing through his neck, opposed an unyielding obstacle to the endeavor; and finding it hopeless, and seeing the new enemy about to assault him, with something of the spirit of the white man under like circumstances; he turned recklessly around and striking his fangs, so that they were riveted in the wound they made, into a susceptible part of his own body, he threw himself over upon his back with a single convulsion, and a moment after lay dead upon the person of the maiden.

A GENTLEMAN MIXING IN SOCIETY.—"Who is that gentleman who has just ordered his seventh tumbler of punch? He seems to be a member of every Club in London." "I believe he is, but I forget his name—he is evidently a person who mixes a good deal in society."

THE POOR.—It is stated in a recent publication assuming to be based on well ascertained facts, that of one hundred and seventy-eight million inhabitants in Europe, seventeen millions nine hundred thousand are beggars, or persons who subsist at the expense of the community, without contributing to its resources.

The Ohio River at Cincinnati, is found to be 1500 feet in width.

LAWS OF OHIO.

AN ACT to prohibit the establishment, within this state, of any branch, office, or agency of the Bank of the United States, as recently chartered by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Whereas the present stockholders of the Bank of the U. S. excepting the United States, and the Treasurer of the U. S. and such other persons as may become stockholders agreeably to the bye-laws made for that purpose to an amount not exceeding in the whole the present capital stock of said Bank, their successors and assigns, have recently by an act of the Legislature of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, been created a corporation and body politic, by the name and style of "The President, Directors and Company of the Bank of the U. States." And whereas the general welfare of this state forbids the establishment within its limits, of any branch, office or agency of the said bank.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That it shall be unlawful for any Bank or body corporate, created by the law of this state, to act as, or transact any banking business as a branch, office or agency of the Bank of the U. States, or of any branch, office or agency thereof, or to hold or own, either directly or indirectly, any stock or stocks, in or to transact any banking business with for, or on behalf of the said Bank of the United States, or any branch, office or agency thereof, either directly or indirectly, as such Bank of the United States so chartered as aforesaid.

Sec. 2. That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to erect, establish or constitute, or aid in erecting, establishing or constituting within this state, any branch, office or agency of the bank of the United States, or of any branch, office or agency thereof, for the transaction of any exchange or banking business within this state, either directly or indirectly, by whatever name, style, or description, such branch, office or agency thereby prohibited may be known or designated, as such Bank of the United States is so chartered as aforesaid.

Sec. 3. That it shall be unlawful for any Bank, or body corporate created by the laws of this state, or for any person or persons, engaged or employed by, for, or in any bank or body corporate, to issue, pass or circulate, as money within this state, any bill or bills or exchange, note or notes, or any other obligation or obligations of any other denomination, purporting to be money, and to be issued by the Bank of the United States, or any branch, office, or agency thereof, as said Bank of the U. S. is so chartered as aforesaid.

Sec. 4. That if any Bank or body corporate, created by the law of this state, shall violate either of the provisions of the 1st section of this act, every such bank or body corporate so offending shall for such offence, forfeit and pay \$10,000 and costs of suit, to be recovered in an action of debt upon this act, in the name and for the use of the state of Ohio; which action may be prosecuted in any court of record in the county in which such bank or body corporate may be situated, by the Prosecuting Attorney of said county.

Sec. 5. That if any person or persons who shall violate any provision of the 2d section of this act, shall there by forfeit and pay 1000 dollars each and costs of suit, for such offence, to be recovered in an action of debt upon this act, in the name and for the use of the state; which shall be prosecuted in any court of record in the county in which such offence may be committed by the Prosecuting Attorney of said county.

Sec. 6. That if any Bank or body corporate shall violate any provision of the 3d section of this act, such bank or body corporate shall for every such offence, forfeit and pay 500 dollars and costs of suit; and any person or persons engaged or employed by, for, or in any bank or body corporate as aforesaid, who shall violate any provision of the 3d section of this act, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay 500 dollars and costs of suit; and all such forfeits shall be recovered in an action of debt, upon this act, in the name of the state of Ohio, which action may be prosecuted in any court of record in the county in which such offence may be committed, by any citizen of

said county, and such citizen shall be entitled to one half of such forfeit, and the residue thereof shall be paid into the treasury of said county, for the use of said county, by the sheriff thereof, on his collecting said residue. This act to take effect and be in force from and after the passage thereof.

WM. MEDILL, speaker H. of Rep. ELIJAH VANCE, speaker of Senate.

AN ACT, To prohibit the Circulation of Small Bills.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Ohio, That the Auditor of State, after receiving the statements of the dividends made by the Banks in this state, in conformity with the first section of the act entitled "an act to tax bank, Insurance and Bridge companies," passed March 12th, 1831, shall draw on such Banks respectively in favor of the Treasurer of state, for the amount of twenty per cent upon such dividends, and it is hereby made the duty of said Treasurer to collect said tax and account for it as other monies received into the treasury, & if any Bank shall neglect or refuse to pay the amount so drawn for, such Bank shall be proceeded against in the manner, and shall be liable to the penalty prescribed in the second section of the said act to tax Bank, Insurance and Bridge companies: Provided, That should any Bank in this state, prior to the 4th day of July next, with the consent of its stockholders, by an instrument of writing under its corporate seal, addressed to the Auditor of State, surrender the right conferred by its charter, to issue or circulate notes or bills of a less denomination than three dollars, after the 4th day of July, 1836, and any notes or bills of a less denomination than five dollars, after the 4th day of July, 1837; then, and in that case, the Auditor of state shall be authorized to draw on such banks only for the amount of five per cent upon its dividends, declared after the surrender aforesaid.

Sec. 2. Should any Bank, having made such surrender, afterwards issue or circulate any note or bill, in violation of the terms of such surrender, every Bank so offending, for every note so issued or circulated, shall forfeit & pay a sum not less than ten times the amount of such note, to be recovered with costs, by action of debt, before any court of competent jurisdiction in the name and for the use of the state of Ohio.

Sec. 3. That it shall be the duty of the Auditor of State, on or before the 1st day of April next, to forward to the cashier of every bank in this state a certified copy of the present act.

Sec. 4. So much of the act entitled "an act to tax Bank, Insurance and Bridge companies," as is inconsistent with the provisions of the act, be and the same is hereby repealed.

March 14, 1836.

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act to provide for the proof, acknowledgement and recording of Deeds and other instruments of writing," passed February 22d, 1831.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That when the mortgagee of any property within this state shall have received payment of the money due to him and secured by the mortgage, & shall be entered, or may hereafter enter satisfaction, or a receipt of the same either on the mortgage or on the record of the mortgage, such satisfaction or receipt so recorded, shall operate and be taken to release the said mortgage to whoever may be entitled to a release.

Sec. 2. That the Recorder of deeds of each county when hereafter recording a mortgage, shall leave space on the margin of the record for the entry of satisfaction; and shall record therein the satisfaction made on said mortgage or permit the mortgagee to enter there in the satisfaction of said mortgage; which record shall have the same force and effect as the record of a release of said mortgage, and the Recorder shall be entitled to demand and receive the sum of twenty five cents, and no more for recording such satisfaction of a mortgage, or permitting the same to be recorded as aforesaid by the mortgagee.

Sec. 3. Nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as a declaration that any former or existing practice of entering satisfaction or releases in the manner herein authorized, shall be held invalid. Passed March 12, 1836.

MODE OF ELECTION BY ELECTORS.

The election of President and Vice President of the United States is by electors, in each state, who are chosen as the

legislature in each state may provide. The choice of electors must be made within thirty four days preceding the first Wednesday in December, of the year in which an election for President and Vice President of the United States takes place and they must be equal in number to the number of Senators and Representatives to which the several States may by law be entitled, at the same time the President and Vice President, thus to be chosen, shall come into office.—No Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States can be appointed an elector. The Electors are required to meet in their respective states on the first Monday of December, and vote by ballot for President and Vice President one of whom shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. Lists of the number of votes given and for whom, must be sealed and transmitted to the President of the Senate.

Mode of Election by Congress.—The President of the Senate is required to open and count the lists forwarded by the electors of the several states, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives. The person having the greatest number of votes for President is duly elected, if such be a majority of the electors appointed. If no person have such a majority, then from the persons having the highest number, not exceeding three, in the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately by ballot, the President. In the election the votes are taken by states the representation for each state having one vote only. A quorum for this purpose consists of a majority of members from two thirds of the States, and a majority of all the states is necessary to a choice. If the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the choice devolves upon them, before the 4th of March next ensuing, then the Vice President shall act as President.

In the event of a failure of the Representatives to elect a President or Vice President, it becomes the duty of the Secretary of State to communicate information thereof to the Executive of each State, and cause the same to be published in the newspapers, giving 2 months previous notice, that electors of President shall be chosen or appointed in the several states, within thirty four days next preceding the first Wednesday in December ensuing when the choice of the President shall proceed as usual. The period of service is four years.

A Thrilling Adventure.—I have heard a story somewhere of a merchant who collected a party together to give relief to one of those little family festivals which brighten the dark trace of life, and cheer the human heart in every clime. It was his daughter's wedding day, crowds of her young acquaintance crowded round her, and as the father gazed proudly on the face of the young bride, he wished as bright a prospect might open for his other children, who were gambling merrily among the crowd. Passing through the passage connecting the lower rooms, he met a servant maid, an ignorant country wench, who was carrying a lighted tallow candle in her hand without a candlestick. He blamed her for this dirty conduct, and went into the kitchen to make some arrangements with his wife about the supper-table; the girl shortly returned with her arms full of bottles, but without the candle. The merchant immediately recollected that several barrels of gunpowder had been placed in his cellar during the day, and that his foreman had opened one of the barrels to select a sample for a customer. "Where is your candle?" he enquired, in the utmost agitation. "I could not bring it with me, for my hands were full," said the girl. "Where did you leave it?" "Well, I'd no candlestick, so I stuck it into some black sand that's there in one of the tubs."

The merchant dashed down the cellar steps, the passage was long & dark and as he groped his way his knees threatened to give way under him, his breath was choked, and his flesh seemed suddenly to become dry and parched, as if he already felt the suffocating blast of death. At the extremity of the passage, in the front cellar under the very room where his children and their friends were revelling in felicity, he discerned the open powder barrel, full almost to the top—the candle stuck lightly in the loose grains with a long and red snuff of burnt oil wick topping the small and gloomy flame. This sight seemed to wither all his powers, and the merry laughter of the youngsters above struck upon his heart like the knell of death. He stood for some moments, gazing upon the light, unable to advance. The fidler commenced a lively jig, and the feet of the dancers responded with increased vivacity; the floor shook with their exertions, and the loose bottles in the cellar jingled with the motion. He fancied the candle moved—was falling!—with desperate energy he dashed forward; but how was he to remove it? The slightest touch would

cause the small live coal of wick to fall into the loose powder. With unequalled presence of mind he placed a hand each side of the candle, with the tips of his fingers, and the distended fingers pointed towards the object of his care, which as his hands gradually met, was secured in the clapping or locking of his fingers, and safely removed from the head of the barrel. When he reached the head of the stairs the excitement was over; he smiled at the danger he had conquered; but the reaction was too powerful, and he fell into fits of most violent and dreadful laughter. He was conveyed senseless to bed, and many weeks elapsed ere his nerves recovered sufficient tone to allow him to resume his habits of every day life.

Knickerbocker.

FRENCH VANITY. With all the superabundance of vanity ascribed to the French, they certainly show infinite less of it in their intercourse with their fellow creatures than we do. I have seen a Countess, whose title was of a dozen fair descents, open the door of her apartment, and welcome the guests who appeared at it with as much grace and elegance as if a triple relay of tall fellows who wore her colours had handed their names from hall to drawing room. Yet in this case there was no want of wealth. Coachman, footman, abigail, and doubtless all fitting attendants, owned her as their sovereign lady and mistress. But they happened to have been sent hither and thither, and it never entered her imagination that her dignity could be compromised by her appearing without them. In short the vanity of the French does not show itself in little things; and it is exactly for this reason that their enjoyment of society is stripped of so much of the anxious, sensitive, ostentatious, self-seeking etiquette which so heavily encumbers our own.—Mrs. Trollope's Paris and the Parisians.

TASTE FOR READING.

If I were to pray for a taste which should stand by me under every variety of circumstances, and be a source of happiness to me through life, and a shield against all its ills, however things might go amiss, and he would frown on me, it would be a taste of reading. I speak of it, of course, only as a worldly advantage, and not in the slightest degree derogating from the higher office and sure and stronger panoply of religious principles—but as a taste, an instrument, and a mode of pleasurable gratification. Give a man this taste, and the means of gratifying it, and you can hardly fail of making him a happy man, unless, indeed you put into his hands a most perverse selection of books. You place him in contact with the best society in every period of history; with the wisest, the wildest, with the tenderest, the bravest, and the purest characters who have adorned humanity. You make him a denizen of all nations—a contemporary of all ages, the world appears created for him.

It is hard y possible but the character should take a higher and better tone from the constant habit of associating in thought with a class of thinkers, to say the least of it, above the average of humanity. It is morally impossible but that the manners should take a tinge of good breeding and civilization from having constantly before our eyes the way in which the best informed have talked and equated themselves in their intercourse with each other. There is a gentle, but perfectly irresistible coercion in a habit of reading, well directed, over the whole tenor of a man's character and conduct, which is not the less effectual because it is really the least thing he dreams of. It cannot be better summed up than in the words of a Latin poet—"Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros." It civilizes the conduct of men and suffers them not to remain barbarous.

S Humphrey Davy.

A young man not much accustomed to "good society," dining one day at the table of a gentleman where he felt the necessity of bringing into use his choicest language, found his pudding a little too dry. The word sauce (or sassa) seemed rather too much like home to be used on this occasion, desirous of displaying his acquaintance with the dictionary, he genially said by saying to the lady who presided, "if you please, ma'am; I'll trouble you for half a spoonful of your impudence."

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DAYS SLEIGHING. —The Hudson Gazette of Tuesday says.—This day makes 180 days that the ground has been covered with snow; a thing we may venture to say unknown in the history of America, since its first settlement.